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BREAKING ALL RECORDS

Spirited Bidding For Lead and Zinc Ores—David Clark Uncovers a Body of Carbonate—Dividends From Fluor Spar—Paducah Happenings.

LAST WEEK'S SPLENDID RECORD!

The past week has been rather eventful in a mining way.

The year's work was rounded up by the stockholders of the Kentucky Fluor Spar company, and a generous dividend declared and paid. The annual meeting was held on Wednesday, and all of the capital stock was represented. There were present Mr. Thomas D. Jones, of Chicago, representing about one half of the stock, and Messrs. Maxwell, Blue, Nunn and Watkins, of Marion, owning the balance. Some transfers of the stock were made a few weeks ago, the price paid being \$135 per share, or \$35 premium.

It was anticipated that a 35 per cent. dividend would be declared on this, the first year of the existence of the consolidated companies. It was stated that but ten per cent. was declared, owing to the addition during the year of a very complete separating plant at the company's works in Marion, which probably cost very nearly the difference. The company's many mines are well provided with machinery and everything points to a still greater success for the ensuing year.

On the same day the first annual meeting of the Columbia Mining company was held in this city. Messrs. Porter, Johnson and Hudson, of Paris, Tenn.; Mr. Overby, of Paducah; Mr. Harry Watkins, of Marion, and one or two Northern holders of stock participated in the meeting. A visit was made to the Columbia mine, where the large separating plant is being constructed. The probabilities are that this mill will be in active operation within the next 40 days.

The highest price reported paid for zinc ore in the Joplin district last week was \$40 per ton, and the assay basis ranged from \$35 to \$37.50 per ton, according to the quality of the ore. A year ago the highest price was \$35 per ton. Some little competition was ushered into the lead market, and a few lots sold at a special price; lead sold generally at \$54 per ton, but there were a few instances where a higher price was paid, another buyer having dropped into the market who took several lots at an advance. A year ago the price of lead was \$45 a ton.

The total zinc sales, 4491 tons was perhaps about the equal of the output, though some of the buyers are of the opinion that the reserve is a little higher than a week ago. If there is any unsold ore in the district it is hard to find.

The district value of the output during the past week was \$103,291.

The Henderson Syndicate, Messrs. David Clark, Charles Dalm and Louis Baldauf, have uncovered a splendid quality of carbonate of zinc on their Farmer property adjoining Blue & Nunn's "Old Jim" mine.

For nearly two years Mr. Clark has given more or less of his time

to prospecting this land, as well as considerable of a tract of land known as the Thomas farm, both of which are owned by these gentlemen.

Last fall two trenches were cut, and a space left untouched a few feet in extent between them. Over this one of the members of the United States Geological Survey made the statement that there was no use prospecting for carbonate there. At a depth of about fifteen inches underneath where he then stood the vein of carbonate was uncovered on last Thursday. The ore is of a fine quality and there seems to be a large body of it.

The persistently progressive, pushing city of Paducah is not quite 42 miles from Marion. Its growth is simply wonderful. The older inhabitants can not yet reconcile themselves to the fact of meeting so many strange faces every time they happen to be on the street. The commercial club of Paducah, composed as it is of the younger business men of the city, are always ready to extend a helping hand to any enterprise that promises results. If one has a good thing they will surely push it along. Already some 51 factories of various kinds are giving employment to as many hundred operatives. Indeed the Paducahians, one and all, are disposed in every way to advance the interests of their city.

The combination of the Porter-Hudson Tobacco company, of Paris, Tenn., with the Smith-Scott works at Paducah is already showing the work of a strong man at its head. Mr. Porter, who was for several years in the flour spar business in Marion, is the general manager of the combined company. The other day in Paducah he was loaning out the surplus funds of the company and the amount would have purchased a big slice of the city 25 years ago.

Other Marion people who are interested in Paducah have also had a mighty level head looking after their interests. Mr. P. S. Maxwell has recently leased to a syndicate of Paducah capitalists a tract of ground adjoining the Palmer House on Broadway, the lease being for 60 years, with an annual rental that would make any one except Marion mining men rich.

The genial cashier of the Globe Trust Co., Mr. H. H. Loving, a long time resident of Marion, is always called upon by our people when in Paducah, and from the crowd in his bank pretty nearly everybody else calls there some time during the day.

The exhibit of ores from Marion at the Palmer House by the Reed Mining company, created a great deal of interest and quite a number of lots, with the 1,000 shares of stock added, were sold. Mr. Roberts was assisted part of the time by that silver tongued, persuasive gentleman of Marion, Mr. James Henry, and both did their best to give the citizens

some idea of the "Mining Wonderland" here in Crittenden county.

All in all, social, financial, and every other way, we raise our hats to the people of Paducah.

There seems to be a deadlock between the Kewanee Fire Clay people and the teamsters in and around the Stevens farm, where this fire clay is being mined. The difference of 25 cents per ton has put a stop to the enterprise, for the present, at least. The company offer \$1.75 per ton to Marion; \$2.00 per ton is demanded by the men owning the teams.

It looks somewhat like a short-sighted policy on the part of the latter, inasmuch as the development of this section of the county not only enhances the value of all lands in the vicinity, but enables a contemplated railroad an opportunity to base the tonnage of freight it would reasonably secure from that point.

It is said that one hundred teams could be actively employed in the transportation of this clay for shipment to the works at Kewanee, from the Illinois Central at Marion. The farmers and land owners are most decidedly interested in having such an enterprise in their midst, and it would seem advisable that both sides should, if necessary, yield somewhat on this very slight difference.

Mr. Allie Moore, one of our legal gentlemen, was never accused of farming for either exercise or profit, but he has a little son who, during the past season, has attended to a plot of ground possibly one-sixteenth of an acre, covered with strawberry plants. This young gentleman has sold from this ground 247 gallons of strawberries at 40 cents per gallon and the field looks as though it would yield as many more; and this, too, in addition to the home consumption; and any one that knows Allie Moore's capacity for strawberries can figure out what the yield must have been. There is no question but that fruit culture of nearly all kinds in this section would return a splendid profit. Our sandy knolls, planted with a good variety of either apple or pear trees would return more money than the land owner would know what to do with. A good winter apple is always salable in any market at a good round price. Form a fruit culture club get the best information possible and raise fruit.

McConnelly & Keen, who are prospecting within ten miles of Elizabethtown, Ill., have uncovered what is stated to be the largest and strongest body of lead ore yet found across the river. The vein is nearly solid galena, six feet in width. Fred Clement, of Marion, who had just arrived from the shaft, telephones that the entire vein will average 60 per cent. of lead. The Marion Mineral company has a piece of property adjoining this land. It is about two miles from this company's great fluor spar property on the Lee farm.

Major Clement resumed work on the Clement mine last Monday.

It is somewhat strange that the miners in this section hesitate to contract by the foot for sinking shafts. Here is a gentleman who would much prefer to make a contract for a certain depth on a splendid mineral showing, and he does it to avoid the trouble and annoyance of personal superintendence. Have not we a progressive man in camp who will take up such contracts and complete them.

The Seacoast Mineral company is having the usual rugged road to travel upon that most innovations do have. Possibly the placing in Paducah of a very costly method of separating our ores was a mistake, inasmuch as their value in the rough for such of our ores as require concentration is not large. Deducting freight from the mine to the plant at Paducah—a very good profit in itself—and add to that the cost of handling and re-shipping, the balance left is too small to afford the miner but little, if anything.

Of course the cure for this sort of thing is to place such plants in the immediate vicinity of the mines where the ore will meet the machinery for its dressing as soon as mined, and no unnecessary expense will be incurred.

It is expected that the Eastern end of the string will succeed in placing the company in bankruptcy, after which a reorganization will take place and probably the machinery will be taken to the ore fields of Western Kentucky where it naturally belongs.

Messrs. Black, Barnard, Little and McClelland, all of whom are interested in the Southern Illinois mining district, were in Paducah last week. The opinion of these gentlemen as to that field was very flattering; deep shafts are being sunk in many places, old abandoned properties are being resurrected and placed in productive shape and a general good feeling of prosperity but a little ahead of them was manifest in their conversation. Mr. Merritt, of Salem, was also in that city on Monday, en route for St. Louis, where he will remain a few days.

The Babb mining shaft, being one of the first openings made by Messrs. Blue & Nunn in the district, has a very large vein of disseminated zinc ore, something similar to the Joplin ground.

It is situated very near the Illinois Central railroad, and with the ordinary Joplin jigs for cleaning the Jack from the gangue it seems to offer very strong possibilities for mining and shipping ore. The Press understands that a lease can be made of this ground, and that but little capital would be required to make a handsome property out of it.

The lease on the property in Mexico, known as the Myers farm, some eight miles south of Marion, and on which extensive bodies of barites and fluor spar have been located, was sold last week to the Commercial Mining company, of Hopkinsville, for \$2,000 in cash and \$3,000 in the stock of the company. The property was originally leased from Mr. Myers by Jas. Henry and Lawrence Cruce, who afterward sold their interests to Kevil, Jameson & Fowler, of Marion.

The Rosi Claire vein, passing through the Babb farm, near Carrsville, has been tapped by the Ohio Valley Mining company of Marion, and the showing in lead and zinc ores, as well as fluorspar, is unmistakably strong. Considerable excitement exists in that locality over this fact and extensive preparations are being made by the company to develop the property to its fullest extent.

Mr. W. A. Grider, of Bowling Green, is making a collection of the various ores of this district, for the St. Louis Exposition on behalf of the mineral exhibit committee of Kentucky.

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The meeting of the Ohio and Tennessee rivers somehow seems typical of the business talents of the Paducah people; they combine northern shrewdness with southern confidence, and as a result their city will, in the not distant future, have to be considered in most of the larger business affairs of the country.

Mr. Robert Drescher returned to Marion from his few weeks vacation in great form. He will shortly take up the study of analytical chemistry as applied to our ores, here for the purpose of checking the mill work at the Columbia mine. This mill will be in operation in about 40 days, and a very large output of both lead and zinc will be made.

Mr. J. A. Pierce, of Salem, has uncovered within a few miles of that city a body of carbonate 16 feet in width, of a first-class quality. On the same land and parallel to this vein of carbonate, is a vein of lead ore and white fluor spar eight feet in width. The samples shown in Marion by Mr. Pierce are number one in every respect.

President J. L. Frankel, of the Tradewater Coal company, of Sturgis, announces many improvements and a steady run of work for the new colliery, which is one of the most prosperous in the state. About one hundred new houses will also be built to accommodate the increased force of miners.

The shaft of the Wilson Mining company, near Crittenden Springs is now down 60 feet. It was not expected to reach the strike of the ore body at less than 75 feet, but from the assays constantly being made as depth is gained, the showing of zinc values indicates an ore body not far from the present depth.

The Crittenden Springs Hotel register showed a very large arrival list at that famous summer resort, Sunday last. Fully twenty ladies and gentlemen from various sections of the United States, reached the hotel that morning. Major Ira Pierce did the honors in his usual affable style.

Mr. George P. Roberts, for several years in the Washington and British Columbia mining country, reached here from Seattle last week. He will, after visiting the various mines, and familiarizing himself with the makeup of the district, commence work on the Reed Mining company's land.

Dr. Curran Pope and brother, of Louisville, arrived on Saturday before yesterday mining work was resumed on the Senator mine, near Princeton. Senator Deboe is enthusiastic over the future of this property, and certainly the zinc and lead ore so far taken out warrants that sort of feeling in a marked degree.

Mining captain Persons, of the Mineral Point Zinc Co., is retimbering the Holly shaft preparatory to sinking from its 70 foot depth. The boiler, hoist, etc., are all in place and work will be vigorously pushed.

A letter from Mr. Steinmiz, dated at Cody, Nebraska, was received on Saturday. He is en route to the Atlin Lake district of Alaska, where there's more room to play base ball than in our court house yard here.

Out at the Wesley Eaton fluor spar property, owned by some mining company or other, we have forgotten its name, an indescribable air of sadness prevails—a dull, innocuous desuetude sort of an atmosphere. Why is this thus?

The weather in Marion was balmy, warm, and much like the June days of other years until the arrival of a gentleman from Mineral Point. We have been wearing overcoats ever since.

A slab of spelter—metallic zinc—produced from Marion "Jack", by the Winona, Minn smelter, was received by Blue & Nunn Monday. The quality is A1.

Extensive gold and silver deposits are reported in Mississippi.

AN AWFUL DISASTER.

A cloudburst and flood at Heppner, Ore., swept away a great portion of the town, and drowned nearly half the population, about 500 persons, in the ruins. Besides these, 100 to 200 persons are injured, while the property loss is estimated at \$1,000,000.

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